

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of keeping a check on costs arising during the operation of an installation for delivering a final product, comprising:

recording an operating state of at least one component of the installation based on a status message;

feeding the status message to a computer model of;

determining, via the computer model, actual cost values arising in at least one component of the installation, taking into account expenditures arising and earnings realized from delivery of [[a]] the final product;

comparing the determined actual cost values with predeterminable set values for costs; and

indicating a deviation between the determined actual cost values and the set values for costs.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when determining the actual cost values, an expenditure on basic operating materials is taken into account.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when determining the actual cost values, the expenditure on the installation is taken into account.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

outputting a warning if a predeterminable deviation of the determined actual cost values from the set values for costs is exceeded.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

requesting a manual input if a predeterminable deviation of the determined actual cost values from the set values for costs is exceeded.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

outputting a request to check the component with the deviation if a predeterminable deviation of the determined actual cost values from the set values for costs is exceeded.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

feeding at least one of the status messages and computational results of the computer model to a proposals system for automatically determining at least one proposal for improving cost-effectiveness of the installation.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the determination of the at least one proposal is at least one of shown on a display and transmitted to a higher-level system.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the operation of the installation is monitored by a separate process control system.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the status messages are transmitted to the process control system and the status messages are transmitted from the process control system to the computer model.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein, when determining the cost values, the expenditure on the installation is taken into account.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the installation is an installation for converting fossil fuels into energy.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein, when determining the actual cost values, an expenditure on the fuel is taken into account.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the expenditure includes at least one of depreciation, consumption and maintenance.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the expenditure includes at least one of depreciation, consumption and maintenance.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

outputting a warning if a predeterminable deviation of the determined actual cost values from the set values for costs is exceeded.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

requesting a manual input if a predeterminable deviation of the determined actual cost values from the set values for costs is exceeded.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

outputting a request to check the component with the deviation if a predeterminable deviation of the determined actual cost values from the set values for costs is exceeded.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

feeding at least one of the status messages and computational results of the computer model to a proposals system for automatically determining at least one proposal for improving cost-effectiveness of the installation.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the operation of the installation is monitored by a separate process control system.